

WORDS

FOR THE BEGINNING

— DON'T FORGET TO LAUGH —



Lisle

Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

1st Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2024

WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING

Holy and Unhindered

I am sure it is important to close your eyes, to pray on your knees, to fling yourself into deep reverence and even deeper humility. I am sure the Spirit is close when we dress up, when we sing the descant line, when we murmur the words with a sincere and hopeful heart.

And I am sure that when you moonwalk through your living room in soft wool socks, when you cackle loudly enough for the whole restaurant to hear, when you squeal into the phone and make pancakes for dinner, when you plunge your hands into the dirt and talk to the sparrows, when you make a mess of Communion breadcrumbs all around the Table, or when you allow yourself an undone, unhindered, unpolished sort of joy—that the Spirit loves that just as well.

The angel said, Do not be afraid; I am bringing you joy.
We humans have spent a lot of time focusing on the fear.
Don't forget: God is also in the joy.

Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

PRELUDE Prelude on The First Noel Paul Fey

BRINGING THE LIGHT

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We have named our joy out loud, and it is clear—

God is in our joy.

God is in this room.

We have reason to celebrate.

We have a reason to sing.

Thanks be to God for the bright hope of this day.

*SONG OF PRAISE Infant Holy, Infant Lowly Hymnal, No. 128

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Joyful God,

You told us that in order to enter the kingdom of heaven,
we must be like children.

Did you mean that like children, we must practice unhindered joy?

**Did you mean that like children, we should lean into laughter, release our
cynicism, and open ourselves to delight?**

In a world as broken and battered as ours, we admit,

this often seems easier said than done.

Forgive us, patient God, for the moments

when we are so focused on the bad that we miss the good.

**Forgive us for hearing the nativity story and staying in our seats
instead of jumping for joy.**

We know that even now

you are sowing delight in our lives.

Open our hearts up to it.

With gratitude we pray, amen.

(Time of silent reflection)

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

We are seen. We are loved. We are forgiven.

That is news worth celebrating! That is news that should make us want to cheer,
laugh, cry with relief, dance, and sing all at the same time! So in response to

God's goodness, I invite you

to rise in body or spirit and join me in the sung response. Let us make a joyful
noise for God's abundant mercy.

*SONG OF RESPONSE Angels We Have Heard on High (Refrain) Hymnal, No. 113
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

LESSON ONE	Practice Joy	Luke 2:10, Isaiah 9:2-3
SING WITH JOY	Joy to the World	Hymnal, No. 134
PRACTICE JOY	Joy found in Scripture	
LESSON TWO	Listen for Joy	Matthew 2:10, Psalm 148
SING WITH JOY	O Come, All Ye Faithful	Hymnal, No. 133
PRACTICE JOY	Joy Found in Community Friends, the peace and joy of Christ be with you. And also with you. Let us pass joy and peace to one another.	

LESSON THREE	Listen for Joy	Psalm 126:1-3, Isaiah 55:12-13
SING WITH JOY	Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee	Hymnal, No. 611
PRACTICE JOY	Joy Found in Prayer and Giving	

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

SHARING OUR QUILTS

If you would like to comment on the quilt you brought, this is the time!

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG	Let Joy Be Your Companion	Bulletin p. 6
*BLESSING AND CHARGE		
*POSTLUDE	Fanfare on Adeste Fideles	Paul Fey

*Please rise in body or spirit.

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. You may also indicate interest in membership by checking the appropriate column in the ritual of friendship booklet. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

Lectionary Readings for January 5: Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12; Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21; Ephesians 1:3-14 ; John 1:(1-9), 10-18.

The Food & Shelter items of the month for January are sandwich crackers and granola bars. **Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.**

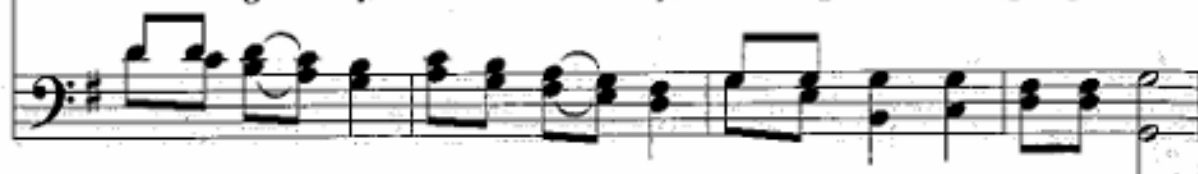
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat-tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep-ing; shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing new



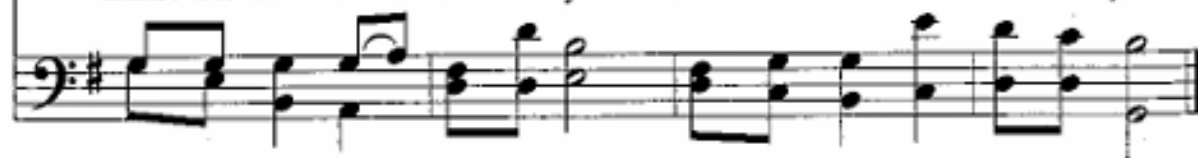
ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, ti - dings of the gos-pel true.



Swift are wing-ing an-gels sing-ing, no - els ring-ing, ti-dings bring-ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais-es voic-ing greet the mor - row:



Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!



Joy to the World



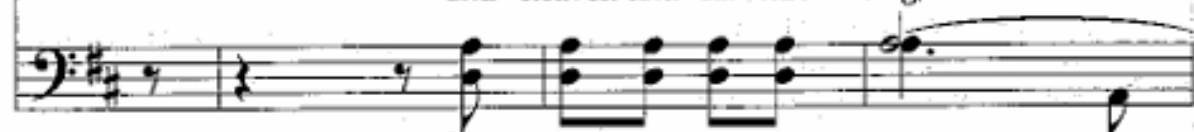
1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -



her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness



and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,



sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.



heaven and na - ture sing,

O Come, All Ye Faithful

133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

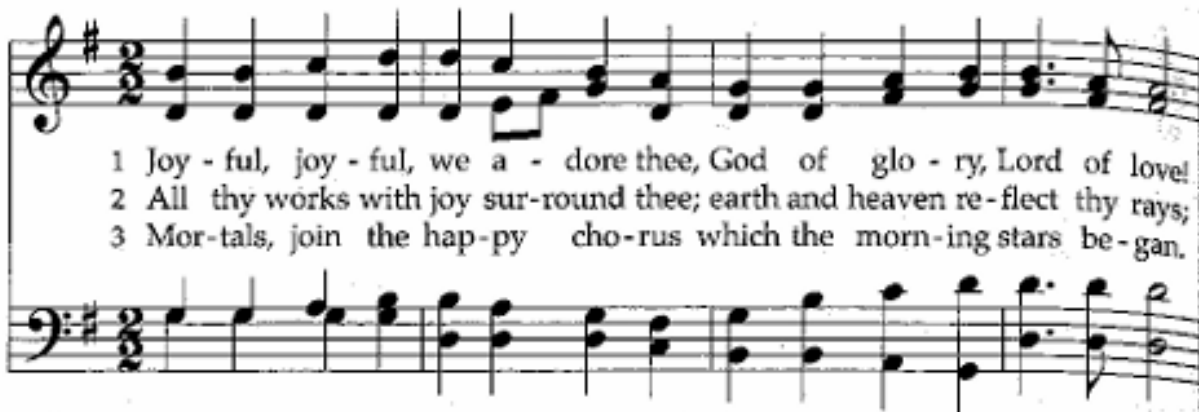
ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

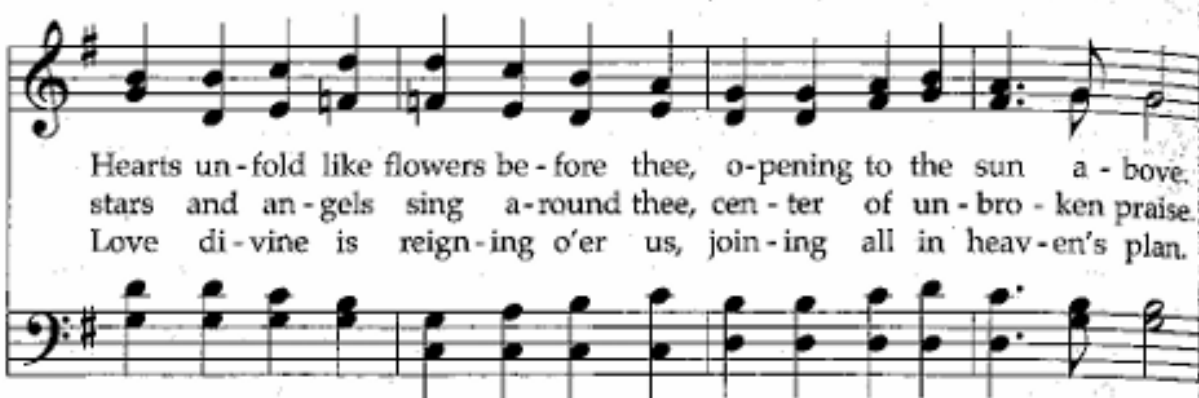
born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed!
 glo - ry in the high - est! O come, let - us a - dore him; O come, let
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

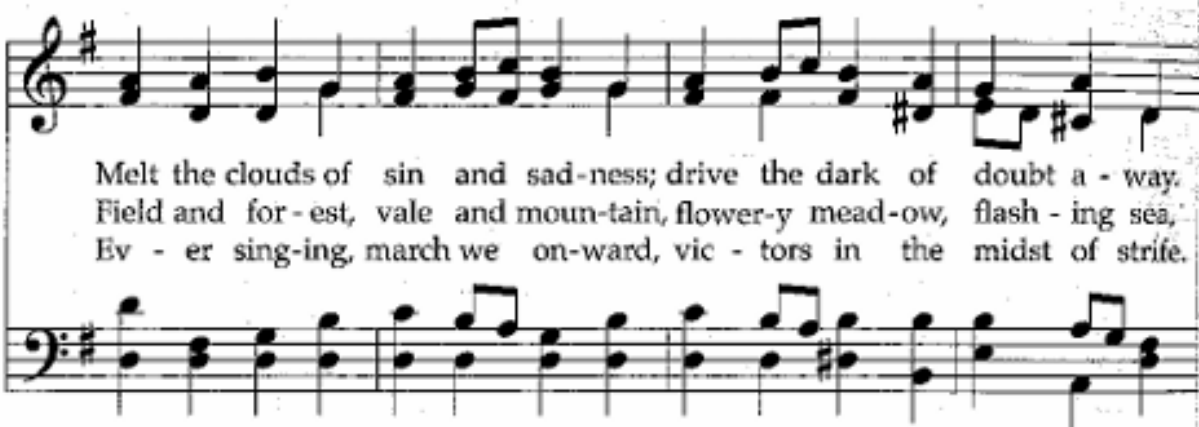
611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee; earth and heaven re-lect thy rays;
3 Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan.



Hearts un-fold like flowers be - fore thee, o - pening to the sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, join - ing all in heav - en's plan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash - ing sea,
Ev - er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife.



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun-tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

Let Joy Be Your Companion

GO TELL IT 7.6.7.6 with refrain

Words by Anna Strickland, 2024

African-American spiritual



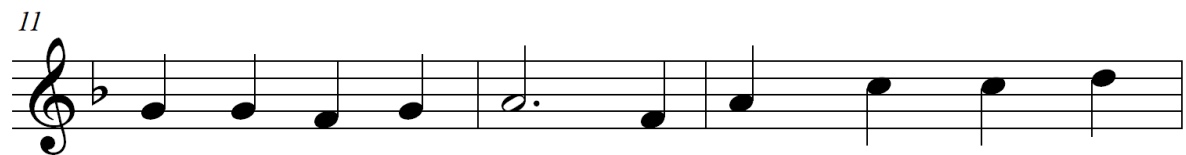
Let joy be your com - pan - ion Let laugh - ter ring out ev - ery - where



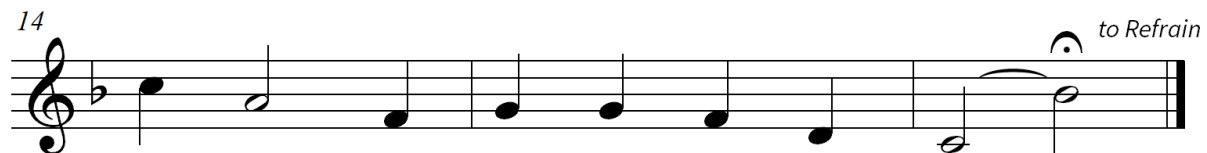
Let joy be your com - pan - ion For joy's a gift from God



With eu - lo - gies and scrip - tures The
As pro - test - ors as - sem - ble, Their
In an - xious nights spent fret - ting When
When deep fa - tigue has sett - led In -



mour - ners say good - bye A sto - ry sparks the
griev - an - ces to bring Yes, e - ven in their
chan - ges feel im - mense The dawn is yet ap -
to your ver - y bones Let strength come from the



laugh - ter That in - ter - rupts their cries
an - ger They find a song to sing
proach - ing The sun will rise a - gain
mem' - ries Of all the joy you've known